

Appl. No. 10/617,462
Docket No. 9303MCL:
Amdt. dated September 22, 2006
Reply to Office Action mailed on June 23, 2006
Customer No. 27752

REMARKS

Claim Status

Claims 1-17 are pending in the present application. No additional claims fee is believed to be due.

Claims 2 and 3 have been amended to eliminate the quotations around (easy typing) in claim 2 and around (pack level) in claim 3.

Claims 5 and 15 have also been amended to include the step of first and second buyers entering ordering information until a quality order is achieved. Support for this amendment is found at page 4, lines 19-31 of the specification.

Claim 17 has been amended to correct typographical mistakes.

It is believed these changes do not involve any introduction of new matter. Consequently, entry of these changes is believed to be in order and is respectfully requested.

Drawings

The Office Action indicated that new corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) were required due to discrepancies identified in Form 948. The drawing have been corrected as requested and 18 drawing sheets have been provided with this response.

Rejection Under 35 USC §103(a) Over Barnes in View of Lederer

The Office Action rejected Claims 1, 4-8 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Barnes et al. (US 5,970,475) in view of Lederer Jr. et al. (US 2002/0023109). In regards to Claim 1, the Office alleges that Barnes teaches an electronic procurement system and method for trading partners comprising:

- (a) providing a web order management computer system, a remote buyer's computer system, and a communications link therebetween (Figs. 1, 2);
- (b) displaying at said remote buyer's computer system, under control of said web order management computer system, an order pad screen (col. 4, line 8) that

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displays at least one of: (i) all products available for purchase by a buyer using said remote buyer's computer system, and (ii) only a pre-selected customer specific subset of the products that are available for purchase by a buyer using said remote buyer's computer system, wherein said subset of the products is pre-selected by said buyer (col. 4, lines 5-25, col. 6, lines 57-60);

(d) said buyer submitting said validated quality order to said web order management system, by selecting at least one predetermined command (col. 8, lines 52-53).

The Office admits that while Barnes teaches filling orders for goods, he does not explicitly teach that (c) said buyer interactively entering ordering information at predetermined locations on said order pad screen until, under control of said web order management computer system, a quality order is validated in substantially real time. However, according to the Office Action, Lederer teaches a method for ensuring compliance with regulations wherein:

(c) said buyer interactively entering ordering information at predetermined locations on said order pad screen until, under control of said web order management computer system (Fig. 21, [0151], [0152] a quality order is validated in substantially real time [0042].

Thus, according to the Office Action, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Barnes to include that said buyer interactively entering ordering information at predetermined locations on said order pad screen until, under control of said web order management computer system, a quality order is validated in substantially real time, as specifically disclosed by Lederer, because it would allow the users to more efficiently interact with the system, and more directly and more quickly perform various maintenance tasks on the regulation-compliance system, as well as more efficiently retrieve desired information from the regulation-compliance system, as specifically taught by Lederer.

Attorney for the Applicant respectfully traverses the Office Actions rejection of Claim 1. Lederer is directed to a system and method for ensuring compliance with regulations, particularly safety related regulations regarding the shipments of products from one region to another. No where in Lederer does the specification teach or suggest a method for interactively validating and entering orders for products over a computer network, much less a step of such method including a buyer interactively entering ordering information at predetermined locations on said order pad screen until, under

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control of said web order management computer system a quality order is validated in substantially real time as claimed in claim 1.

Paragraphs 0042 of Lederer describes a data storage module containing various tables and / or databases storing compliance related information. The compliance related information describes the regulations that multiple regions place on the movement and handling of products within their respective jurisdictions. No where in the paragraph cited, or anywhere else in the specification, does Lederer teach or suggest a buyer interactively entering ordering information at predetermined locations on a order pad screen until, under control of said web order management computer system, a quality order is validated in substantially real time.

Consequently, the combination of Barnes and Lederer does not teach or suggest all of the elements of claim 1 and claim 4 depending therefrom and claims 1 and 4 are patentable over Barnes in view of Lederer.

According to the Office Action, System claim 17 repeats the subject matter of method claim 1, as a set of apparatus elements rather than a series of steps and therefore, rejected claim 17 on the same rationale as claim 1. Therefore, for the aforementioned reasons, claim 17 is also patentable over Barnes in view of Lederer.

In regards to Claim 5, according to the Office Action, Barnes teaches an electronic procurement system and method for trading partners comprising:

- (a) providing a web order management system, a first remote buyer's computer system, a communications link therebetween, second remote buyer's computer system, and a communications link between said web order management system and said second remote buyer's computer system (col. 7, lines 50-54);
- (b) displaying at said first remote buyer's computer system, under control of said web order management computer system, a first product catalog screen in which only a first set of pre-determined products is displayed for said first buyer to select from, wherein said first set of pre-determined products is a first subset of all products sold by way of said web order management system, and wherein said first set of pre determined products is selected by an administrator of said web order management system (col. 6, lines 57-65);
- (c) displaying at said second remote buyer's computer system, under control of said web order management computer system, a second product catalog screen in which only a second set of pre-determined products is displayed for said second

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buyer to select from, wherein said second set of pre-determined products is a second, different subset of all products sold by way of said web order management computer system, and wherein said second set of pre-determined products is selected by an administrator of said web order management system (col. 6, lines 57-65)

Attorney for the Applicant respectfully traverses the Office Actions rejection of Claim 5. First, Column 6, lines 57-65 Barnes discloses a user's access to a catalog server being in whole or in part. The level of access is established by an administrator who defines the user profile for each user in the buyer organization. Such profile establishes what part of the catalog server the user may view, the user's spending limits the nature of the goods/services that the user may procure, and the nature of the administrative options the user may access.

Claim 5 has been amended per this response to include the step of said first and second remote buyers interactively entering ordering information until, under control of said web order management computer system, a quality order is validated in substantially real time. Neither Barnes nor the combination of Barnes and Lederer teach or suggest this step. Accordingly, Claim 5 and claims 6- 8 depending therefrom are patentable over Barnes in view of Lederer.

The Office Action rejected claim 15 on the same rationale as claim 5. Similar to claim 5, claim 15 has been amended per this response to include the step of said first and second remote buyers interactively entering ordering information until, under control of said web order management computer system, a quality order is validated in substantially real time. Therefore, for the same reason provided for claim 5 above, claim 15 is patentable over Barnes in view of Lederer.

In regards to claim 14, according to the Office Action, Barnes teaches an electronic procurement system and method for trading partners comprising:

- (a) providing a web order management computer system, said web order management computer system being capable of being connected to a remote buyer's computer system;
- (b) causing an order pad screen to be displayed at said remote buyer's computer system under control of said web order management computer system, said order pad screen displaying at least one of the group consisting of: (i) all products available for purchase using said remote buyer's computer system, and (ii) only a

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pre-selected customer specific subset of the products that are available for purchase using said remote buyer's computer system, wherein said subset of the products is pre-selected by said buyer (col. 4, lines 52-53);

(c) receiving ordering information from said buyer's computer system, wherein said ordering information is entered at predetermined locations on said order pad screen (col. 4, lines 23);

(e) receiving from said buyer's system computer a validated quality though the selection of at least one predetermined command (col. 8, lines 52-53).

However Barnes does not teach:

(d) interactively evaluating said ordering information to determine if such information represents a quality order and providing to said buyer's computer system information pertaining to the quality order status of said ordering information such that updated ordering information may be repetitively received and evaluated in substantially real time;

According to the Office Action, Lederer Jr. et al. (hereinafter Lederer) teaches a method for ensuring compliance with regulations including: interactively evaluating said ordering information to determine if such information represents a quality order and providing to said buyer's computer system information pertaining to the quality order status of said ordering information such that updated ordering information may be repetitively received and evaluated in substantially real time until a quality order is received and validated (Fig. 21, paragraph [0151], [0152] a quality order is received and validated in substantially real time [0042].

As previously explained with regards to the preceding claims, Paragraphs 0042 of Lederer describes a data storage module containing various tables and/or databases storing compliance related information. The compliance related information describes the regulations that multiple regions place on the movement and handling of products within their respective jurisdictions. No where in the paragraph cited, or anywhere else in the specification, does Lederer teach or suggest interactively evaluating said ordering information to determine if such information represents a quality order and providing to said buyer's computer system information pertaining to the quality order status of said ordering information such that updated ordering information may be repetitively received and evaluated in substantially real time.

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Consequently, the combination of Barnes and Lederer does not teach or suggest all of the elements of claim 14 and claims 14 is patentable over Barnes in view of Lederer.

The Office Action has rejected claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Barnes in view of Price et al. (US 200210082881) and Claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Barnes in view of Moore (US 6,456,729). Attorney for the Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claim 3 for the reasons provided for overcoming the rejection of claim 1 above.

The Office Action has rejected Claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Barnes in view Ferguson et al. (US 5,966,697). The Office rejected claim 16 based on the same rationale. According to the Office Action, Barnes teaches an electronic procurement system and method for trading partners comprising:

- (a) providing a web order management computer system, a remote buyer's computer system, and a communications link therebetween (Figs. 1, 2);
- (b) displaying at said remote buyer's computer system, under control of said web order management system, an order pad screen (catalog) which displays a plurality of products that are available for purchase by a buyer using said remote buyer's computer system; (col. 4, lines 5-25; col. 6, lines 57-60)
- (d) said buyer submitting said quality order to said web order management system, by selecting at least one predetermined command (col. 8, lines 52-53).

However, Barnes does not teach that:

- (c) said buyer entering ordering information at predetermined locations on said order pad screen and either: (i) completing a first procedure that finishes a first order, or (ii) not completing said first procedure and instead commencing a second procedure to enter ordering information for a second order on said order pad screen; and continuing to enter ordering information for said first order or said second order under control of said web order management system, until receiving a message from said web order management system that a quality order had been achieved for one of said first and second orders.

According to the Office, Ferguson et al. (hereinafter Ferguson) teaches a method for secure transaction order management processing comprising: entering order information by a buyer in the required fields section (predetermined locations) on the

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screen (Fig. 9F; col. 12, lines 56-58); completing the first order (a first procedure that finishes a first order) (col. 12, lines 35-36), or continue shopping (not completing said first procedure) (col. 12, lines 35-36); or selecting a different merchant rather than go back to the display of items at the current merchant (instead commencing a second procedure to enter ordering information for a second order on said order pad screen) (col. 12, lines 37-44); and continuing to enter ordering information for said first order or said second order under control of said web order management system (col. 2, lines 38-40); upon completion of the transaction, providing a receipt to the user (until receiving a message from said web order management system that a quality order had been achieved for one of said first and second orders) (col. 13, lines 3-6).

According to the Office, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Barnes to include that: (c) said buyer entering ordering information at predetermined locations on said order pad screen and either: (i) completing a first procedure that finishes a first order, or (ii) not completing said first procedure and instead commencing a second procedure to enter ordering information for a second order on said order pad screen; and continuing to enter ordering information for said first order or said second order under control of said web order management system, until receiving a message from said web order management system that a quality order had been achieved for one of said first and second orders, as disclosed in Ferguson, because it would advantageously provide the user with a wide choice of goods or services offered by various vendors, thereby stimulating users to shop more, and, thereby, increasing revenue.

Attorney for the Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claim 9 since neither Barnes nor Ferguson alone or combined, teach or suggest "continuing to enter ordering information for said first order or said second order under control of said web order management system, until receiving a message from said web order management system that a quality order had been achieved for one of said first and second orders". Consequently, claim 9 and claims 10-13 depending therefrom and claim 16 are patentable over Barnes in view of Ferguson.

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Conclusion

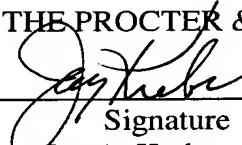
In light of the above remarks, it is requested that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection under 35 USC 103(a). Early and favorable action in the case is respectfully requested.

This response represents an earnest effort to place the application in proper form and to distinguish the invention as now claimed from the applied references. In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of this application, entry of the amendments presented herein, and allowance of Claims 1-17 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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